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REPORT OF THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS AND HEADS OF PLANNING OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

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SYSTEM OF CO-OPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION AMONG PLANNING BODIES OF LATIN AMERICA

Set up at the First Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America, held in Caracas, Venezuela from 13-16 April 1977 and endorsed by resolution 371 (XVII) adopted at the seventeenth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL), held in Guatemala City from 25 April - 5 May 1977.

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1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities related to the business.

2. It is essential to ensure that all financial data is properly documented and organized for easy access and review.

3. Regular audits and reconciliations should be performed to identify any discrepancies or errors in the records.

4. The use of reliable accounting software can help streamline the record-keeping process and reduce the risk of human error.

5. It is also important to establish clear policies and procedures for handling financial information and ensuring its confidentiality.

6. Finally, maintaining accurate records is crucial for compliance with tax laws and regulations, as well as for providing transparency to stakeholders.

7. By following these guidelines, businesses can ensure that their financial records are accurate, complete, and reliable.

8. This document serves as a guide for businesses looking to improve their record-keeping practices and enhance their financial management.

9. The information provided here is intended to be a general overview and should not be considered as professional advice.

10. For more detailed information and assistance, please consult with a qualified accountant or financial advisor.

I. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Venue and date

The Meeting of Ministers of the Third Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean was held on 28 and 29 November at Guatemala City.

Participants

The Meeting of Ministers was attended by representatives of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela (see list of participants in Annex 1).

Representatives of the following bodies also participated as observers: the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Central American Bank of Economic Co-operation (CABEI), the Commission for the Scientific Development of Central America and Panama (CTACP), the Central American Technological Research Institute for Industry (ICAITI), the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (INCAP), the Organization of American States (OAS), the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), the Agency for International Development (AID), the Regional Office for Central America and Panama (AID/ROCAP) and the Inter-American Planning Society (IAPS).

The following United Nations bodies and specialized offices were represented: the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the United Nations Children's Fund, the International Labour Organization and the Regional Employment Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean.

/Election of

Election of the members of the Bureau

The Bureau of the Meeting of Ministers and Heads of Planning was as follows:

President: Lisandro Raúl Villatoro (Guatemala)

Vice-Presidents: Eduardo Wiesner (Colombia)

Delfín Ugarte (Paraguay)

Carlos Peña Rodríguez (Argentina)

Edouard Berrouet (Haiti)

Rapporteur: Francisco Labastida Ochoa (Mexico)

Agenda ^{1/}

The Agenda of the Third Meeting of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean was as follows:

- (a) Election of the members of the Bureau
- (b) Adoption of the Agenda
- (c) Inaugural statements
- (d) Consideration of the Technical Report on the State of Planning
- (e) Consideration of the Technical Report on Regional Development Planning
- (f) Consideration of the Technical Report on Planning and Science and Technology
- (g) The ILPES Technical Committee
- (h) The functioning of the System of Co-operation and Co-ordination among Planning Bodies
- (i) Venue and date of the following conference
- (j) Consideration and adoption of the Report and Conclusions and Recommendations of the Third Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America.

^{1/} See the complete list of documents submitted at the Conference in Annex 2.

Opening meeting

His Excellency Colonel Carlos Mendoza Azurdia, Vice-President of the Republic of Guatemala, took the floor at the inaugural ceremony.

In his inaugural statement he expressed, on behalf of the Government of the Republic, his pleasure in hosting such a distinguished assembly and extended a warm welcome to those present, wishing them complete success in achieving, as a result of the Conference's debates, the high goal they had set themselves: to promote the economic and social development of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In his address he said that the major topics to which the Conference would give particular consideration were an indication of how important they were for achieving progress in the region in a peaceful, orderly and technically-oriented manner and for achieving the goals shared by the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean. He also stated that broad participation in the Conference on the part of the Latin American and Caribbean nations was of the greatest importance, since current methods of setting priorities would be considered with a view to strengthening collective participation on the part of the countries that made up the region.

Finally, on behalf of the President of the Republic, he wished participants a pleasant stay in Guatemala and solemnly declared open the Third Conference of Ministers of Planning and Planning Officials of Latin America and the Caribbean (see Information Document N° 3, Statement by the Vice-President of Guatemala).

Mr. Carlos Pestana, Minister of Planning of Peru and Chairman of the Second Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning, then took the floor. He opened his statement by saying that the Third Meeting of Ministers would provide further proof of the consolidation of the System of Co-operation among Planning Bodies.

/He then

He then conveyed a special greeting from His Excellency Fernando Belaúnde Terry, President of the Republic of Peru, to those present.

After that, he referred to the Conference's three topics, placing emphasis on the regional dimension of development. Furthermore, he described Peruvian experience in the field of people's co-operation, stressing that the origins of that new and vital programme could be found in Inca civilization.

He then referred to the need to strengthen the various areas of co-operation so that the region should be increasingly self-reliant. Finally, he expressed his gratitude to the Government of Guatemala for its generous hospitality and expressed the hope that the debates would be a complete success (Information Document N° 3).

The following speaker, Mr. Raúl Villatoro, Secretary-General of the Planning Council of Guatemala and Chairman of the Third Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning, opened his statement by saying that it was a great honour for Guatemala to host the Conference and extending the warmest welcome to all delegations and participants.

He then referred to the serious problems that Latin America was facing, pointing out that social progress was very limited and that in many instances there was regression in that field. He added that the development strategy should promote social development and that economic growth should result from social progress, providing the appropriate political elements in planning.

After that, he referred to the documents prepared by ILPES on the question of income distribution and poverty. He then referred to the challenge to planners, who had the important role of helping to solve the serious complex of social problems.

/Finally, he

Finally, he thanked delegations for coming to Guatemala and wished them full success in their debates (Information Document N° 3).

Mr. Atilio Vieytes, Minister of Planning of El Salvador, acting as Spokesman of the Meeting of Central American Planners, then took the floor. After having expressed his satisfaction at being in Guatemala and at having the honour to represent Central America, he called on those present to pay a tribute to the memory of Doctor Julio Segura, whose tragic death had occurred at the very time when, as Secretary of the National Planning Council of Guatemala, he had been fully engaged in organizing the Conference.

Mr. Raúl Villatoro, Chairman of the Conference, expressed gratitude for that deeply-felt remembrance, and those present observed a minute of silence.

The Minister of El Salvador then referred to the integrationist vocation of Central America and the basic aspects of the position of the Central American planning bodies with regard to the Conference's topics.

Taking up the question of development planning, he said that the approach stressing economics that was often put forward should be changed to an approach that emphasized social aspects.

Then the Central American Spokesman referred in greater detail to regional planning, saying that it could be an important instrument for promoting change.

Turning to the question of Science and Technology policies, he referred to the need to strengthen the schemes relating to co-operation with other countries and quoted specific examples of Central American agreements with Mexico, Venezuela and Brazil.

/Finally, he

Finally, he drew attention to the far-reaching reforms that were taking place in El Salvador, which were not sufficiently known, and urged the multinational communications media to fulfil their responsibility to transmit information on all development aspects of the situation in a country.

He ended his statement by thanking Guatemala for its hospitality and expressing the hope that the Meeting would be successful (see Information Document N° 3).

Mr. Jorge Méndez, Director of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning, opened his statement by saying that the Third Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning was taking place at a time when the economic and social situation in Latin America was characterized by an extremely diverse range of political plans and economic models and when the region was facing an increasingly complex situation.

Referring to the study conducted by ILPES on the state of planning in Latin America, he stressed the urgent need for planning of all the styles identified.

Further on in his statement he referred to the basic components of a series of priority goals that must be considered in tackling the development problems of the countries of the region, stressing: achievement of a high growth rate; a balance between expansion of the external sector, efficiency in the productive sectors and strengthening and expansion of the domestic market, which would make the economy less vulnerable to potential unfavourable changes in the world economy; and adequate attention to environmental problems and conservation of natural resources. He also referred to the regional dimension of development and the variable of science and technology in the planning process.

/He then

He then referred to the treatment of social goals within the context of planning, stressing that in that connection there had frequently been insufficient linkage with economic aspects.

The Director of ILPES also discussed the major potential of the System of Co-operation in making progress in overcoming the serious problems confronting the region.

Finally, Mr. Méndez thanked the Government of Guatemala and the President of the Meeting for the considerable support provided with regard to the holding of the Third Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning (see Information Document N° 3. Statement by the Director of ILPES).

Adoption of the report and the conclusions and recommendations

At its last plenary meeting the Third Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean adopted the report of the Conference.

II. PRESENTATION OF A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES' EXPERIENCE

In accordance with the Agenda of the Conference, the Ministers made statements presenting their countries' experience with global, sectoral and regional planning.

The Ministers and Representatives took the floor in the following order: Colombia, Chile, Paraguay, Mexico, Haiti, Bolivia, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Honduras and Brazil (see Information Document N° 4, Statements by Ministers and Representatives).

In particular, considering the agreement of the ILPES Technical Sub-Committee, Mr. Ricardo Martínez, Minister for Planning of Venezuela, described to the Conference his country's experience with community participation in the planning process (see Information Document N° 5, Venezuelan experience with community participation in the planning process).

/III. CONCLUSIONS

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD CONFERENCE
OF MINISTERS AND HEADS OF PLANNING OF LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN

1. Conclusions and Recommendations on the State of Planning

The Ministers of Planning and Heads of Planning Bodies of Latin America and the Caribbean, having exchanged experience and considered various aspects of the question of the state of planning.

Stress

The importance of pursuing, on a permanent basis, consideration of planning processes in the Latin American and Caribbean region, as the most appropriate way of determining what progress has been achieved, what obstacles there are to such progress, and ways of establishing policies and methods for improving the results achieved.

The desirability that the various planning bodies should exchange experience, as a further way of contributing to improvement of their action.

And, consequently, recommend that:

ILPES, in co-ordination with the planning bodies of the individual countries, should in addition to the efforts it has already undertaken in preparing the study on the "State of Planning in Latin America and the Caribbean", endeavour to analyse not national experience but the shared problems affecting the countries of the region. Such studies should also systematically cover other topics referred to in the Commission's other recommendations and also the analysis of planning systems, participation machinery, operative planning and monitoring systems.

/Considering that:

Considering that:

Many delegations emphasized the need to accord the highest priority to social development.

Attention was also drawn to the intention of a number of countries to place particular emphasis on social development in the 1980s.

Ultimately, social development does not automatically result from economic growth, even though the latter may be a pre-requisite for the former.

Stress:

The importance of continuing and expanding studies on social planning.

And suggest, in addition, that:

Appropriate methods and techniques for social planning should be developed and prepared further.

The relationship between economic and social planning should be developed further, and the impact of economic policy at the social level and, conversely, the implications that social policy has for economic activities should be determined.

New ways of co-ordinating the activities of various bodies active in the social field should be explored in order to render their action more coherent, thus increasing the effectiveness of social expenditure.

The possibility of developing methodologies and establishing national systems for providing social indicators that permit evaluation at the global level of the social impact of government policy should be considered.

Machinery for identifying, preparing, evaluating and monitoring social projects should be improved.

/Problems relating

Problems relating to access for target-groups to a minimum level of well-being, including institutional aspects and basic social services, should be studied.

Social policy should accord high priority to meeting the basic needs of the population and, in particular, those of extremely poor groups, and such policy should, furthermore, be aimed at achieving a clear redistributive effect.

Ways of co-ordinating nutrition policy, particularly child nutrition, with the other economic and social aspects that form part of development plans, should be considered, in such a way, that they are not confined merely to health aspects.

Due emphasis should be placed within the context of the Economic and Social Development Plans, on land tenure questions.

Considering that:

The question of the external sector was referred to repeatedly as one of the crucial questions confronting the Latin American countries, and in view of the fact that question should be considered in a broad context including both physical and financial aspects, and taking into account its structural character as well as its current economic context.

Recommend that:

High priority should be given to studies undertaken in the future, particularly under ILPES programmes.

An endeavour should be made to progress in the following specific directions in particular:

Comparative analysis of national experience with regard to global policies relating to foreign trade, both with the rest of the world and within the context of the region's economic integration processes.

/Consideration of

Consideration of the impact of such policies on industrial expansion, employment, the investment process, regional distribution of economic activity, distribution of income and other variables relevant to planning processes.

Studies to provide a basis for developing effective foreign trade policies, stressing questions relating to co-operation and/or integration among the countries of the region.

Considering that:

All long-term projections identify the elimination of unemployment and the provision of employment for the growing economically active population as one of the most serious problems that the region will have to face in the coming decades, and if that problem is not faced it will be more difficult to reduce the number of persons below the critical poverty threshold.

Understand that:

Economic policies must be aimed at reconciling employment objectives and goals with the other objectives of development plans.

Science and technology policies must also systematically take the goal in question into consideration.

Social policies must regard employment as a variable that is of basic importance in attaining social development goals.

And suggest that:

ILPES should devote particular attention to the question of employment in its research, training and advisory assistance activities, in appropriate co-ordination with other international bodies and programmes concerned with the same question.

/Considering that:

Considering that:

Many delegations devoted particular attention to the question of annual operative planning and reconciling medium-term planning with policies to deal with the current economic situation.

Recommend that:

An endeavour should be made to improve available statistical information required both for formulating operative plans and for carrying out monitoring tasks and reformulating policies as necessary. Moreover, taking into account that bodies responsible for carrying statistics have limited resources, it would be advisable to make a particular effort to identify with the greatest possible exactitude the various categories of information required and to consider the possibilities for making full use of available statistics.

Compatible models should be used and an endeavour should be made to adjust such models appropriately to the conditions and requirements of each country, making use of the experience gained in the region and considering the possibility of adapting the experience of other countries.

Existing methods of maintaining interagency links should be improved with a view to rendering statistics compatible and considering new alternative machinery.

Considering that:

The development plans of many countries represented at the meeting stressed the importance of encouraging participation in preparing and implementing development plans.

And that, furthermore, such participation could be useful for ensuring that the plans in question are more geared to meeting the requirements of the various social agents and that they receive more effective public attention during their implementation stages.

/Recalling that:

Recalling that:

There is insufficient information on appropriate procedures and machinery for furthering such aims of ensuring participation.

Recommend that:

Comparative analysis of experience in this field existing both inside and outside the region should be carried out.

Necessary and potential links between machinery to ensure participation in planning and institutional and administrative systems currently in effect, should be analysed.

Considering that:

The planning process is not confined to preparation of "book-plans", in order to justify the existence of planning bodies.

The anticipated results of planning are determined by the administrative capacity to implement plans.

In addition to the translation of decisions into public policy, execution and monitoring of results must be guaranteed.

Recommend that:

Promotion of development of the operative capacity of State administrative machinery should be included among the concerns of planning bodies (so that such machinery is in a position to channel the demands of the social sector rapidly and effectively), and appropriate response should be provided.

Considering that:

Various delegations participating have voiced their concern with regard to the impact of the oil crisis on the economy of the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The oil crisis generates structural imbalances that vary according to the extent to which each of the countries in question is dependent on petroleum.

There is a real imbalance because higher oil prices represent a burden for importing economies, which are obliged to increase the volume of their exports in order to obtain the same quantity of oil, in other words, in the short term, higher oil prices mean that a higher proportion of the national product must be surrendered in exchange for imported oil.

Since relative domestic prices do not encourage investment in alternative sources of energy, those countries that are self-sufficient in oil are concerned at the danger of exhausting their oil reserves, as the reserves in question are a non-renewable source of energy and are finite.

There are various approaches that help to overcome this difficult problem, such as use of the machinery for co-operation in the field of energy established by Mexico and Venezuela for the benefit of the Central American and Caribbean countries, in response to the proposal put forward in the World Energy Plan submitted to the United Nations General Assembly and to the Trust Fund administered by IDB and the World Bank with resources provided by Venezuela.

Recommend that:

The exchange of experience among individual countries with regard to the way in which they contribute to solving the energy crisis should be promoted and comparative studies of such experience should be conducted.

/Considering:

Considering:

The importance of the above-mentioned question, the diversity of the situations in each country in the Latin American region, and

The need to exploit to the maximum existing resources, in view of the magnitude of the task ahead.

Recommend that:

For the greater part, research work on economic and social planning should take place at the national level, without prejudice to the existence of, and efforts to establish, appropriate co-ordination procedures with a view to multiplying the effect of such research activities.

Countries should encourage execution of research activities, and ILPES should co-operate with countries in the field of planning, placing emphasis on the questions referred to in these recommendations.

ILPES should also promote co-ordination of activities with other United Nations agencies whose field of work is linked or related to its own, thus avoiding overlapping and duplication of effort.

Considering that:

Planning should not only concern problems relating to economic growth, the profitability of projects, tariff policy, tax exemption, etc., but should also devote close attention to social questions, such as those relating to employment wages and salaries, nutrition, recreation and, in short, questions affecting the quality of life and the well-being of the population.

Economic growth should result in effective social development that helps to bring about social harmony in the Latin America and Caribbean countries.

/These social

These social development endeavours must take place in the framework of the economic possibilities of each individual country.

Recommend that:

The level of employment should be raised, and a level of official expenditure must be set that makes it possible to meet basic needs and overcome extreme poverty through effective programmes.

Development of the housing sector must be promoted and oriented in such a way as to meet the needs of the various population groups, in accordance with the priorities of each government.

Cultural and recreation question must be taken into consideration in evaluating public projects.

Problems relating to the environment and natural resources must be regarded as matters of major concern.

A pattern of exploiting such resources that will definitely not affect future generations must be adopted.

Finally, entrust the national planning bodies of the countries that decide to do so with the task of implementing the provisions of this resolution, and ILPES, among other bodies, with assistance in the conceptual and instrumental formulation of planning techniques appropriate for attaining the goals in question in the most effective manner.

Considering:

That the Latin American countries have been members of an integrationist scheme that did not expressly take into consideration the planning process as such.

The importance of planning as a basic instrument for the development of countries, a fact which has been confirmed at various meetings.

/That Central

The Central American integration has placed excessive emphasis on trade in goods and services, leaving aside the necessary complementarity of the economies in question and effective programming and allocation of resources for development.

Therefore, agree to:

Request ILPES, in co-ordination with regional bodies of the area, to co-ordinate and orient a seminar focused on the analysis of, and machinery for, planning for economic and social integration.

Considering:

The way in which co-operation has taken place in the recent past between ILPES and UNICEF in conducting training and research activities in the field of social planning, which provides an example of how various institutions of the United Nations system could conduct joint activities in a manner that is co-ordinated and useful to countries.

The assistance provided by UNICEF, not only at the regional level, as mentioned above, but also in national activities.

Decide to:

Convey their gratitude to UNICEF and encourage UNICEF and ILPES to pursue their co-operation endeavour in the field of social planning.

Considering that:

At this Third Conference a growing interest was shown in learning about the experience of individual countries of the region with regard to: linking economic aspects with social, political and cultural aspects in the planning process; making short, medium and long-term plan compatible; the institutional structure that makes planning viable; in short, the extent to which planning systems are integrated in each country.

/Recommend that:

Recommend that:

The ILPES study presented at this Third Conference should be regarded as a first step towards a study on planning systems in Latin American and the Caribbean. The study in question should not deal with isolated plans, but with all the plans and machinery that make up the system. Furthermore, support is requested from the planning bodies of the countries of the region in conducting the study.

In order to achieve this goal the following operational machinery is proposed:

(a) That ILPES should prepare a methodology that will make it possible to obtain the information required for the study. This will include questionnaires to be filled in by the officials of the planning bodies of each country, with assistance from ILPES.

(b) Once the information in question has been obtained, ILPES should convene a meeting to consider how it should be organized for the purpose of conducting the comparative studies.

(c) The Ministers are requested to provide assistance by contributing the necessary time of their technical staff for this purpose.

(d) The results should be submitted to the Fourth Conference of Ministers of Planning or should serve as a basic document for the meeting.

(e) The study should be submitted periodically in the context of an ongoing process of consideration of the question of planning.

It is placed on record that the countries sponsoring this motion, namely, Mexico, Brazil, Guatemala and Venezuela, as of now declare themselves ready to participate in the study in question and invite all other countries that so desire to join them.

2. Conclusions and Recommendations on the Question of Planning
and Science and Technology

The Conference recalled:

That the concept of a New International Economic Order is the result of an awareness in countries of the need to bring about significant change in current international relations, since there is, otherwise, very little likelihood that the quality of life of the population of the developing countries will improve.

Aware:

That the application of science and technology should contribute to eliminating the growing disparities between the developed and developing countries since the benefits of technology are not shared equally by all the members of the international community.

Reiterating:

The need for fair and just norms to be established in the context of a new type of international economic relations to regulate the international transfer of technology, the systems of patents and trademarks and the activities of the transnational corporations, taking special account of the interests of the developing countries, particularly those belonging to the region of Latin America and the Caribbean.

/Concerned

Concerned:

By the growing delays in the different international forums for the adoption of international agreements in this regard.

Recommends:

The renewal of efforts to promote at the international level and in co-ordinated form:

The restructuring of the Paris Convention for the protection of industrial property so as genuinely to reflect the interests of the developing countries, particularly those of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The preparation of the International Code of Conduct for the transfer of technology, the primordial objective of which is to contribute to achieving a balance in the contractual relations between sellers and purchasers of technologies and improving the conditions of the developing countries for acquiring technology.

The adoption of the International Code of Conduct on transnational corporations and

Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TCDC) which is an invaluable means of initiating, designing, organizing, strengthening and fomenting co-operation among developing countries so that they can generate, transfer, assimilate, disseminate and share scientific and technological knowledge.

/Recalling:

Recalling:

That the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development recommended in its programme of action the establishment of a system for financing science and technology for development so as to "finance a broad range of activities aimed at strengthening the endogenous scientific and technological capacities of developing countries ..."

Recalling:

That in December 1979 the United Nations General Assembly approved the creation of an Interim Fund for science and technology for development, administered by the United Nations Development Programme.

Seriously concerned:

Because to date, although various projects chargeable to the Fund have been adopted, machinery has not been set up for their presentation, appraisal and adoption, to the detriment of the countries interested in opting for the Fund's resources.

Recommends:

The conveyance to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme of its concern for the need to speed up its implementation as soon as possible with a system of norms regulating the submission, appraisal, and adoption of the proposed projects.

The co-ordination of activities so that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, considered as one region, will occupy a favourable position in the allocation of resources by the Interim Fund in question.

/Designation of

Designation of and support to the National Focal Points for the Interim Fund which as far as possible should be the same bodies as carried out this task for the activities prior to the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.

Aware:

Of the need to co-ordinate all efforts at the regional level as regards science and technology policies and planning so as to share and exchange national experience in this regard and to take advantage and make the best possible use of the resources of the region for the benefit of the countries which compose it, improving their relative position at the world level as regards science and technology.

Aware:

Therefore, of the various efforts as regards science and technology which have been made at the subregional level, which constitute a fundamental stage in the region's integration process.

Recommends:

That the Conference should express its recognition of initiatives of a subregional nature which have materialized in Latin America and the Caribbean through bodies such as the Board of the Cartagena Agreement, the Caribbean Community, the Commission for the Scientific and Technological Development of Central America and other specific bodies.

Support for developing activities of a subregional nature which contribute to a greater integration of activities in policy and planning, research, management, utilization, related services, etc., relating to the science and technology applied for the benefit of the region.

Aware:

That ILPES has submitted a project to the United Nations Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development.

/Considering:

Considering:

That this project aims at meeting the needs of anticipating conceptual, technical and methodological bases for the introduction of the science and technology dimension into development planning.

Aware:

That the countries of the region as a group must make efforts to introduce the science and technology dimension into their development planning process in an adequate form.

Recommends:

Submission to the competent technical levels of their countries of the project submitted by ILPES to the Interim Fund in order to determine the advisability of support at the national level and give the considerations and opinions regarded as relevant.

Taking into account the central concerns expressed by the countries as regards the incorporation of scientific and technological variables into planning, indicated in the summary of the discussion, and the need to stimulate the scientific and technological development which can generate an adequate channelling of public expenditure.

It was considered advisable to establish a list of activities aimed at solving these problems.

Recommends:

That the top priority areas for action should be:

To foment co-operation among the countries of the region in order to share the progress which each has made in specific areas or in order to tackle jointly the solution of certain problems in particular.

To study the behaviour and foster the systematization of national experiences as regards policy machinery and methodologies and the planning of scientific and technological development; in this way to give an adequately explicit place to the science and technology variable in the planning

/systems and

systems and specifically in the national, regional and sectoral development plans at different levels:

(a) In the national long- and medium-term policies and strategies.

(b) In sectoral planning in a connected form and with a view to the solution of specific short-, medium- and long-term problems.

(c) In the definition and implementation of policy machinery and instruments.

(d) Production of a list of activities by sectors and regions in order of priority.

To start on or strengthen the work of the collection and dissemination of complete and up-to-date information on the technological alternatives now available in the region.

To make efforts to orient public spending so as to assist the scientific and technological development of the countries of the region.

Taking into account the need to identify main functions so as to order the work which the countries, with the possible collaboration of ILPES, will carry out, with a view to the explicit incorporation of the science and technology variable into planning.

Recommends:

The development of the following functions:

1. Functions of research and implementation:

(a) Determination of the main "problem areas"

(b) Existing possibilities for tackling:

(i) The transfer of technology

(ii) The development of national capacity and human resources

(iii) The development of the infrastructure and integration of the national science and technology systems

/(c) Inclusion

- (c) Inclusion of science and technology in economic and social planning
 - (i) Sectoral studies
 - (ii) Studies of instruments of analysis and decision-making
 - (iii) Forms of financing
 - (iv) Establishment of norms or codes of conduct
 - (d) Studies of methodology, machinery and formulation of policies for technological development
2. Function of co-ordination of the effort at the following levels:
- (a) Inter-institutional
 - (b) Intersectoral
 - (c) Bi- or multilateral
 - (d) National
3. Function of information:
- (a) Inventory of machinery and projects, norms, patents, trademarks, etc., which relate to the creation of a regional information system on science and technology
 - (b) Institutions and projects existing at the national level
 - (c) Policies at the sectoral and entrepreneurial level
4. Function of participation:
- (a) Creation of public awareness of the importance of the science and technology variable
 - (b) Generation of machinery to channel the opinion and interests of users and generators of technology.

Considering:

That the science and technology variable represents a self-sustaining strategic factor of the developing countries.

That to date the countries most benefiting from scientific and technological development have been the industrialized countries and that

/there is.

there is a need for this development to be extended to the developing countries.

Recalling:

That in the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development it was proposed to set up a United Nations Interim Fund for science and technology, now ratified by the United Nations General Assembly.

Recommends:

That the machinery to communicate with the governments of the industrialized countries should be sought, so as to convey to them the tremendous concern expressed in this Conference as regards the scanty contributions made to the Fund to date which do not correspond to the spirit in which it was formulated and adopted by the United Nations.

Recalling:

That the countries of the area aspire to a new international economic order.

That science and technology are strategic factors in the development of the countries for their self-determination.

That the Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL) as part of its work programme has been carrying out activities of support to the countries in the field of science and technology.

That with the aim of strengthening the development of the countries of the region in the field of science and technology it is necessary: to identify demands and support studies aimed at satisfying them; to increase the efficiency of research institutions, stimulate and encourage private spending in this regard, train or increase the human resources required for the scientific and technological development of our countries and develop their capacity for the generation and adaptation of their own technology.

Taking into account:

That there is a considerable stock of achievements in science and

/technology in

technology in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean of which the countries of the area could jointly take advantage.

Recommends:

That the advisability of making a study on the advantages and disadvantages of setting up a Latin American Centre for Science and Technology for Development within CEPAL in line with the region's needs and priorities should be submitted for consideration to the competent bodies in their respective countries.

That the Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL) should be requested to make the necessary studies in order to submit its conclusions to the countries for consideration and for this purpose request the Technical Secretariat of this Conference to inform CEPAL of the above agreement.

3. Conclusions and Recommendations on the topic of
Regional Development Planning

The Conference considered the agreements stemming from the Meeting of the Heads of the Central Planning Bodies of Central America held in Panama City on 7 November 1980, and decided:

To include and institutionalize regional planning in the regional planning system in those countries in which this has not taken place, as a mechanism which, inter alia, permits the integration of the country into the different contexts and decision-making from its own bases.

To rationalize public spending through the concession of priorities granted through the planning process involved and to implement an investment policy aimed at regional development.

To reduce the concentration of resources and activities which would permit the sustained development of the areas ignored to date in most development plans, taking into account the respective government programmes, and

/To introduce

To introduce the administrative, legal and institutional reforms which will permit greater efficacy and efficiency on the part of the government and its institutions and general participation in the regional development of the countries.

The Conference, taking into account:

That one of the objectives of regional planning is the formulation of plans and programmes aimed at organizing and developing national space, so as to direct human activity within a specific physical territorial framework which will permit the incorporation into the development process of the economic, social and cultural elements which characterize the different regions of the countries.

Since:

It is necessary to set up a mechanism which will ensure the operational functioning of the regions system in the work of the planning and programming of development.

Recognizing:

That the implementation of the tasks connected with the regional problem requires the provision of financial resources.

Taking into account:

That the spatial problem requires technical and institutional support which the public sector can provide, in terms of which the achievement of the regional goal means the implementation of process which requires skilled human resources at the technical and operational level.

Recommends:

That in the short- and medium-term the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean should be able to count on duly institutionalized regionalization, provided with a regional administrative structure at the national level, incorporating the existence of relatively autonomous regional authorities,

/so as

so as to provide a technical and political operational function which will take the form of the formulation and implementation of differentiated policies and which will permit broader participation and active general co-operation in regional development.

At the same time, to set up a regional investment fund, constituted with an initial and annual contribution from the State and under the responsibility of the regional authority, which will orient appropriately the flow of earnings towards the financing of regional programmes and projects to foster the development of subsystem; it is also suggested that the State, as the guiding agent of national development, should incorporate into the country's general budget of incomes and expenditure spatial criteria which will permit the programming of financial resources to guarantee the implementation of the regional plans.

To boost training, research and technical co-operation programmes at the different levels of regional planning which: (a) will reinforce horizontal co-operation among the Latin American and Caribbean countries, and (b) pursue a better relationship with the countries so as to provide recommendations of a more operational nature and for immediate application.

The Conference recommends:

That the countries taking part in integration processes and incorporation complementarity and frontier integration activities should bring policy measures, programmes and projects in these two fields into lines with regional development measures, so as to avoid their adverse effects.

The Conference, considering:

That regional disparities in development are strongly affected by State action in the implementation of homogenous macro-economic policies, recommends the adoption of regional criteria in the formulation of these policies so as to distribute fairly the cost and benefits of the growth process.

/The Conference,

The Conference, considering:

That the regional development process depends not only on the action of the central government but also on each region's own organizational capacity, considers that it is desirable to recommend that the national government should give special attention to strengthening the governments and the systems of subregional administration.

Aware:

Of the important impact on regional development of the course of homogeneous macroeconomic policies.

Taking into consideration:

The small number of studies on the interaction between regional development and macroeconomic policies; the weakness of the methodological proposals which allow the introduction of regional criteria into the use of instruments to induce policies within the scope of the State.

Recommends:

That ILPES should promote comparative studies in this regard, and if it deems it advisable, should organize a seminar on methodologies for the incorporation of regional criteria into the use of policy-inducing instruments within the scope of the State.

4. Conclusions and recommendations on the System of Co-ordination and Co-operation among Planning Bodies

Recognizing:

The success achieved during the last four years by the System of Co-ordination and Co-operation among Planning Bodies in carrying out the objectives established during the first Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning.

/Recommends:

Recommends:

That the countries with the support of the secretariat should design a detailed mechanism which will make it possible to bring about the materialization of the interest of the governments in going ahead with specific activities and programmes as regards co-operation for planning.

In view of the present technical and human potential of the planning bodies of the region.

It is recommended:

That co-operation between them should be boosted and specific co-operation projects for planning should be submitted by the countries to UNDP and other financing bodies so as to be able to implement initiatives and priorities established by the governments through the planners at this meeting and in previous meetings of a regional and subregional nature.

Considering:

The need of support for the Information System for Planning (INFOPLAN), it is recommended that the International Development Research Center should be requested to continue collaborating in its financing so as to consolidate the effort made and guarantee the tasks of decentralization and direct participation of the governments, for which the design of the INFOPLAN system is adopted.

Considering:

That horizontal co-operation among developing countries constitutes a mechanism whose potential should be used to the maximum.

Recommends:

That at the regional and subregional levels additional forms and instruments to those already existing should be proposed and implemented (short-term advisory services, visits, study trips, etc.), so as to further facilitate the exchange of technical information on experience and specific solutions which the countries have found in different fields of planning.

5. General recommendations

The Conference agrees to thank the Government of Guatemala for the excellent organization of the meeting and for the welcome which it has given to all the delegations.

It also recognizes the support of ILPES in organizing the meeting. The Conference agrees to congratulate the distinguished economist Raúl Prebisch on the award of the Third World Prize.

IV. ADDRESSES BY SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF UNITED NATIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES

The representatives of PREALC, ILO, UNFPA, DTC and IDB referred to the topics of the meeting and to the participation of their agencies in strengthening planning in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In particular, the representative of UNFPA referred to the projects submitted by ILPES for implementing the recommendations adopted at the First Conference on Population and Planning (Cartagena, Colombia, May 1979). He stressed the importance of this project and the desire of the governments for its rapid implementation and for the Director-General to take steps to implement the positive references expressed by the delegates on the advisability of adequately integrating the population variable into the planning process.

PREALC said that the last meeting on employment held in Panama had stressed the need of tackling the problem of employment from the standpoint of the general economic strategy and not in a partial or sectoral manner as was the occasion of the past, and also mentioned the interest in continuing to co-operate closely with ILPES in its work with the governments.

The representatives of DTC stressed the great importance of this type of meeting and the desire of his organization to strengthen the co-operation with the region. He also stressed that Latin America was increasingly in a position to support other regions as regards planning.

The representative of IDB congratulated the Government of Guatemala for the conduct of the meeting and stressed the support of ILPES with which IDB maintains very close working relationships.

/V. VENUE

V. VENUE AND AGENDA OF THE FOURTH CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS
AND HEADS OF PLANNING BODIES

The Chairman of the meeting put to the plenary meeting the determination of the venue and date of the next meeting. The representative of Argentina requested the floor and offered the city of Buenos Aires as the venue for the next meeting. The representative of Venezuela supported this and the plenary meeting accepted the offer unanimously.

The Director of ILPES addressed the meeting and in the name of the Institute and CEPAL thanked the representative of Argentina for this offer and offered all support for ILPES for the organization of the Fourth Conference.

As regards the date, it was recommended that it should be held in 1982 and that the Technical Subcommittee, on consultation with the countries, should decide on the day and the month.

Agenda of the IV Conference

The representative of Guatemala recommended that three fields should be dealt with:

- Planning and environment.
- Energy and planning, and
- Social planning.

These topics were accepted in general by the plenary meeting and it was observed that the continuation of the study on the state of planning would also be included. The representative of Argentina recommended that in dealing with the social topic aspects of growth and distribution should be touched on. As regards this topic, the representative of Peru suggested that special attention should be given to the aspect of participation.

/The plenary

The plenary meeting recommended that the topics should be decided on at the next meeting of the Technical Committee.

Closing meeting

At the closing meeting the Minister of Planning of Costa Rica, Mr. Wilburg Jiménez addressed the meeting in the name of Ministers and Heads of Planning. The Minister of Planning of Guatemala, Mr. Raúl Villatoro, closed the session. (The addresses of Mr. Jiménez and Mr. Villatoro are contained in Information Document N° 3).

Annex 1

I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Countries

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Minister and Director of National Planning
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/Rubén Nájera

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PARAGUAY

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PERU

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United Nations Fund for
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/United Nations

United Nations Children's Fund
(UNICEF)

Anthony Kennedy
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3. Specialized agencies

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PREALC

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Víctor Ovidio G.

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Henry Bassford
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5. Non-governmental organizations

Latin American Planning Society (SIAP)

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Enrique V. Iglesias
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Annex 2

DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED BY ILPES TO THE THIRD CONFERENCE
OF MINISTERS AND HEADS OF PLANNING
Guatemala City, Guatemala 26-29 November 1980

Working documents

1. The state of planning in Latin America and the Caribbean.
E/CEPAL/ILPES/R.16.
2. Regional development planning in Latin America. E/CEPAL/ILPES/R.17
3. Some considerations on science, technology and planning. (Vo. 1 and 2).
E/CEPAL/ILPES/R.28
4. Notes on science and technology and development planning.
E/CEPAL/ILPES/R.19
5. Latin American meeting on development planning and science
and technology. E/CEPAL/ILPES/Coop. R.9
6. Coordinación y cooperación horizontal para la planificación en la
década del 80. E/CEPAL/ILPES/R.21

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3. Organismos de planificación de los países miembros de la Comisión
Económica para América Latina (CEPAL) en América Latina y el Caribe
4. Informe de la II Reunión de Técnicos en Planificación, Lima,
Perú, noviembre, 1978
5. Informe II Conferencia de Ministros y Técnicos de Planificación
de América Latina y el Caribe, Lima, Perú, noviembre, 1978
6. Notas sobre la economía y el desarrollo de América Latina: cooperación
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7. Notas sobre la economía y el desarrollo de América Latina: planificación y desarrollo, problemas y perspectivas para la década del 80. Servicios de Información de CEPAL N° 330.
8. Cuarta reunión del Subcomité Técnico del ILPES. E/CEPAL/ILPES/L.4.
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10. Informe de actividades del ILPES 1979 y Programa de trabajo 1980. E/CEPAL/ILPES/L.4.
11. Propuesta de orientaciones básicas para el programa de trabajo del ILPES a partir de 1981. E/CEPAL/ILPES/R.31.
12. Programa de Capacitación - Informe de actividades de los años 1979 y 1980 y Programa de trabajo 1981. E/CEPAL/ILPES/R.22
13. Programa de Investigaciones - Informe de actividades de los años 1979 y 1980 y Programa de trabajo 1981. E/CEPAL/ILPES/R.27
14. Programa de Servicios de Asesoría - Actividades desarrolladas en 1979-1980. Síntesis de programa de trabajo 1981. E/CEPAL/ILPES/R.30
15. Programa de Cooperación y Coordinación entre Organismos de Planificación. Informe de actividades de los años 1979 y 1980 y Programa de trabajo 1981. E/CEPAL/ILPES/R.29
16. Aspectos administrativos y financieros, 1980-1981. E/CEPAL/ILPES/R.32

Documents submitted by the countries

BRAZIL

1. O sistema de planejamento federal
2. III Plano básico de desenvolvimento científico y tecnológico, 1980-1985
(Proyecto)

BOLIVIA

1. Situación reciente de la planificación boliviana
2. Planificación y participación de Bolivia en el desarrollo regional
3. Planificación, Ciencia y Tecnología

CHILE

1. Itinerario del desarrollo económico y social de Chile - 1973/1979.

/COSTA RICA

COSTA RICA

1. Tema I: Situación actual de la planificación del desarrollo económico y social.
2. Tema II: La planificación del desarrollo regional.
3. Tema III: Premisas para el desarrollo tecnológico en Costa Rica.

ECUADOR

1. Planificación, ciencia y tecnología.
2. Planificación del desarrollo regional.

EL SALVADOR

1. Estado de la planificación.

GUATEMALA

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3. La planificación económica en la construcción de la nueva Guatemala - Pamphlet.

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1. La planificación económica y social en Haití.

HONDURAS

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2. Actual situation in the planning system in Honduras.

MEXICO

1. Plan global de desarrollo.
2. Plan global de desarrollo - Anexos.
3. La planeación en México - Antecedentes y situación actual.
4. Plan global de desarrollo 1980-1982 (Resumen y Sinopsis).
5. La planeación y la ciencia y la tecnología en México.
6. La política regional.

PERU

1. Experiencia en la integración de la variable tecnológica en los planes de desarrollo.

PARAGUAY

1. Situación de la planificación regional.

VENEZUELA

1. Experiencia venezolana de participación de la comunidad en el proceso de planificación.